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## THE FRENCH REVOLUTION OF 1789 ILLUSTRATED BY COINS AND MEDALS OF THE PERIOD.

BY GEORGE M. PARSONS.

[Concluded from Vol. XXI, Page 33.]

If any one feels disposed to favor a paper currency *based upon the resources of the country*, let him first consider for awhile the history of the two kinds of currency here represented,—the broad crown of Louis XVI, for instance, Figures 1 and 2, and the assignats. The silver crown has survived the king whose image it bears, the old monarchy which the king represented, and his enemies of every shade who sent him to the scaffold, one killing the other, and in his turn falling from power and dying at the feet of his successor. It has witnessed the *coup d'état* of Napoleon, the establishment of his empire and its fall, the restoration of the Bourbon dynasty in 1814, the one hundred days of Napoleon, his second defeat at Waterloo and the second return of Louis XVIII, the Revolution of 1830, which expelled Charles X and made Louis Philippe king of the French, his expulsion, the short-lived Republic of 1848, the second Empire under Napoleon the Third, its career of less than twenty years and its fall at Sedan, the Commune of Paris, whose career was short and murderous, the rise of the present Republic,—all these events this piece of silver has witnessed and survived. It is no longer, by the law of France, money, but, *sit nomen ejus benedictum*, it has a value of its own, which is independent of the law which demonetized it, for it is SILVER, that to-day possesses an intrinsic worth as it did in 1789, while the assignat is valuable only as a curiosity, and can be bought on the streets of Paris for trifling sums, varying in amount, not according to the denomination, but with the state of preservation.

The credit of the Government was not restored until the establishment of the Consulate, which took place on the 18th Brumaire, An VIII (Nov. 9, 1799). Napoleon and his colleagues at once directed their attention to the reorganization of the finances. They restored in a modified form the system of the old *régime* for the assessment and collection of taxes. In place of disorder they established order, substituted plan and system for confusion,

and public credit sprang to its feet. The immediate demands of the Government were supplied at once, upon an appeal to the bankers of Paris, by a loan in specie, and the Government was never again in straits for money.

Figure 9 is the representation of the reverse of a medal which was struck to commemorate this event. On the obverse there is simply the inscription, *BANQUE DE FRANCE AN VIII*. The device of the reverse is very expressive. In the centre is a high chest; on one side of it stands the goddess Minerva, her left hand resting on the shoulder of Fortune, who, having descended from her rolling wheel, stands on the opposite side, and from her cornucopia is pouring out money upon the top of the chest. The scene very well illustrates the legend, *SAGESSE FIXE LA FORTUNE*, "Wisdom gives permanence to Fortune."

The enemy of the party of the Mountain having been overcome, its members began to attack each other. A few ultra revolutionists became very troublesome and threatened to weaken the authority of the Government. They were known as the Hébertists, taking their name from Hébert, the publisher of *Le Pere Duchesne*. The leaders were arrested; to them were added the promoters of the late atheistical movement, and all were condemned and executed. Some of the parties who were executed had been particularly active and constant in forwarding the Revolution. In sending them to the scaffold, the Government incurred the suspicion of inclining to moderation. To avert this fatal suspicion, it denounced Danton, the manager of the insurrection of August 10 and May 31, Demouslins, who was the author of the movement against the Bastille in 1789, Herault de Sechelles, the author of the Constitution of 1793, and several intimate friends of Danton. All suffered the penalty of death on the 5th of April, 1794, less than two weeks after the execution of the Hébertists. The Government had in the most decisive manner cleared itself of all suspicion of being disposed to clemency.

Robespierre was now without a rival; the other members of the merciless triumvirate had ceased to exist. Marat had been killed by Charlotte Corday, and when Robespierre consented to the death of Danton, he removed the only one who could with any prospect of success contest his supremacy. The other members of the committee who were more intimately associated with Robespierre, also felt secure in the secondary position which they were content to occupy. The result of the victory was however far from what had been expected. The power which the Convention possessed had, since the execution of the king, been exercised throughout the whole of France in the most cruel and merciless manner. The execution of the laws enacted for the suppression of revolts, for the exaction of forced loans, and for the arrest and imprisonment of suspected persons, had been intrusted to subordinates, who were without discretion and without a single humane feeling, and who did their work in such manner, that as is said by Thiers, "the prison and the scaffold were always present to the thoughts of twenty-five millions of Frenchmen."

These savage executioners of the savage laws were never restrained, never even rebuked by their superiors. These superiors never suffered; others than themselves were the unfortunate victims. But now danger was approaching the leaders. Rivalries and jealousies were springing up and leading the way to contests in which one party or the other must perish. The execution of

the inmates of the prisons was increasing day by day, and now a law was devised by Robespierre and two of his intimate associates, who formed a small clique in the Committee of Public Safety, which simplified the proceedings of the Revolutionary Tribunal and threatened new dangers to their personal enemies. An attempt was made to exempt members of the Convention from this new law, but it failed. Alarm became general, and increased when it was known that a list of proscribed persons had been prepared, which included the names of some members of the Convention. It was a critical time, and those who were threatened determined that they would not perish without a struggle.

Robespierre hitherto had been all powerful, but now the time arrived when he was to be powerless. He was vigorously attacked and was denied the opportunity of reply. His arrest was ordered, but his friends would not permit the prison doors to be opened; he and his party were taken to the Hotel de Ville. The Convention declared him and his associates who had been arrested, beyond the pale of the law. They were finally arrested again without a struggle. An arraignment took place on the following day, and as the Convention had already condemned them, no trial was needed. On being identified as the condemned persons, they were sentenced and on the same day were executed, and the Reign of Terror was ended. The fall of Robespierre occurred on the 28th of July, 1794, and is known in history as the event of the 9th Thermidor, of the new calendar.

At this point the question naturally arises: Were the scenes of bloodshed and murder and great suffering through which the country had passed since the memorable 10th of August, 1792, inevitable? Were they necessary for the maintenance of the great Revolution begun in May, 1789? The critical moment of the Revolution was the first, when the contest arose between the Third Estate and the other orders as to the mode in which the organization of the States General should take place. The resolution and firmness of the Third Estate prevailed, and from that time the revolutionary movement met with no check. The display of firmness and the exercise of wisdom carried the country successfully to the adoption of the Constitution in 1791.

There was subsequently no overt act of opposition at home, but rather a semblance of consent on the part of the court to the new order of things. Its opposition was shown by continual intrigues with foreign powers for the purpose of securing their aid in the re-establishment of the monarchy on its old basis. The court in fact felt itself to be without power to resist the National Assembly. It feared the result of the new movement, and this fear at last assumed shape in an attempt of the king to fly from the country. The effort was vain, as the king and his family were arrested at Varennes and brought back to Paris. The Assembly was equally successful in keeping within reasonable bounds those disorderly elements of society which always fly up on the slightest removal of repression.

The demonstration on the 6th of October, 1791, already mentioned, was begun by a mob of hungry women who went to Versailles for the purpose of representing their distress to the king in person. They were followed by an immense crowd of the worst characters in Paris. A large number of this crowd penetrated to the interior of the chateau, and its inmates were exposed to great danger. Lafayette had anticipated the danger and followed the mob

with the troops of the National Guard. He had no difficulty in arresting the violence of the mob by the resolute use of his troops.

Subsequently, when the king was brought back from Varennes, the ease with which all demonstration of violence on the part of the mob could be kept down, is shown by the quiet passage through the streets secured to the king by the warning placard which has already been described. The attempt of the king to escape from the country produced a great excitement. The Assembly took the matter into consideration and finally passed it over without action. A number of republicans, as has been stated, had taken the ground that the king's flight was practically abdication. While the matter was still pending in the Assembly, Robespierre and a number of Jacobins prepared a petition for the establishment of a Republic. A meeting was called at the Champ de Mars, where it was intended that the signing of the petition should take the form of a great popular demonstration. Baily, the Mayor of Paris, attempted by peaceable methods to persuade the people to disperse, but violence ensued, and it became necessary for Lafayette to come to his assistance with some of the forces of the National Guard. The demonstration was put down after a short contest in which a number of persons were killed. This prompt action of the authorities, civil and military, established order, and the leaders fled in dismay and hid themselves in fear of prosecution. The General Assembly was thus able to repress disorder, while it established a new form of government. It proved itself to be superior to opposition whether it came from above or from below.

It would seem on first view of the question, that the new government might have been maintained by the successor of the National Assembly with less difficulty than had attended its establishment, and that whatever defects the lapse of time might bring to light, could have been remedied by peaceable means. Unfortunately, however, as has been said, the National Assembly, before its adjournment, adopted a resolution that none of its members should be eligible to membership in the new legislative body, which was provided for by the Constitution. It is a fact worthy of note that this resolution was adopted on the motion of Robespierre. In consequence of it, the new men who were elected to the Constitutional Assembly were not familiar with public affairs.

The Girondists who administered the Government, and for awhile controlled the Assembly, committed a fatal error in permitting the continued existence of the clubs of the Jacobins and Cordeliers. Lafayette wrote to the Assembly, advising it to close these clubs. This advice might have been followed, since at that time they were easily frightened. On one occasion Lafayette, who was then in the field, came to the city to save the king if possible. The project failed, as the king refused his assent to it. But the mere presence of Lafayette in the city excited alarm at the clubs, and their halls were closed until he had departed. These bodies, which were at the start mere harmless debating societies, in the end controlled the Government and decided the fate of everyone connected with it.

The Girondists afforded but a feeble support to the Government they administered. They were in heart in favor of a Republic, and although they dreaded the consequences of the efforts to establish it, and chose rather to abide by the existing Government, they looked on with a certain degree of



calmness at the insurrectionary movement that was evidently about to overthrow the monarchy, without participation on their part. They failed to see the drift of the current on which they were embarked, and when they summoned resolution to stem it, they were too late. In fine, it may be said, that with reference to their responsible position, they were weak men. With a Government administered by weak men, and opposed by the bad men who were active in the Convention and in the clubs, it may be said that the Reign of Terror was in fact inevitable, since when the second great change occurred, the bad element was the only one that survived.

It will be remembered, that the massacres of September, 1792, were excused by the declaration that patriots who went into the field could not safely leave any enemies behind them. This was a shallow pretence. The insurrection of the 10th of August had resulted in the abolition of royalty and the rigorous confinement of the king and his family in the Temple. The nobles as a class had done nothing to command respect or to excite fear; besides, the greater part of them had fled and their estates had been confiscated. The clergy had been shorn of their strength when the property of the Church had been placed at the disposition of the State, and large numbers of them had afterwards sworn allegiance to the new Government, and had accepted its offices and its salaries. The degree of danger which menaced from the rear, those who left for service in the army, can be fairly measured by the fact that for forty-eight hours the entire population of the city had submitted to an enforced seclusion in their houses and to an universal domiciliary visitation of an offensive character, and that twelve thousand citizens were haled to prison without resistance. This fact alone would indicate that recruits might have safely joined the army.

The pretence was begotten of a burning thirst on the part of the mob, which had already tasted blood; it was favored and encouraged by those who had aroused the mob to the insurrectionary movement of August, and who now gave full license to the instruments they had used, being governed both by fear of them and sympathy with their bloody purposes. As to the poor, ignorant and debased creatures who committed the atrocities of September, they can hardly be blamed for their conduct, — it was their nature so to do. From generation to generation this class had become imbruted by oppression and neglect, and it cannot be held accountable for its brutal instincts and brutal conduct. The responsibility falls upon the legislative body which came into the possession of power at a time when the country was all alive with the fervor of patriotism, and equally ardent in its desire for the maintenance of order. The members of that body, however, failed to observe those elements of society which led only to disorder, and insensibly permitted themselves to be overruled by those whom they ought to have suppressed and rendered harmless.

Speculations of this character are interesting and are naturally suggested; but, after all, it may be that the weaknesses, the shortcomings, and the insufficiency of the prominent actors during the Revolution, leading to many errors and many crimes, and the submission of the nation to the control of those who were bold enough to usurp power, were only the lesser wheels of the great human mechanism, regulated by an unrecognized and uncomprehended law, under the operation of which the pendulum must needs swing as

far to one side as it had swung to the other, so that society could only right itself after the meanest, the cruelest and the least responsible of its members had enjoyed their day of triumph, and revenged, after their own fashion, the wrongs which the class to which they belonged had suffered through many centuries.

The country was never again during the Revolution at the mercy of the mob of Paris. Attempts were made to repeat the insurrections of 1792 and 1793, but they were unsuccessful. The last attempt was a formidable one, but it was relentlessly put down by Bonaparte, to whom the task was assigned by the Directory. The next attack on the Government was successfully made by Bonaparte himself on the 18th Brumaire, Year VIII, the 9th of November, 1799, which established the Consulate and practically brought the Revolution to an end.

On the fall of the monarchy in 1792, the old feeling of loyalty disappeared and its place was taken by a strong sentiment of nationality, a sentiment born of a new present condition of things and of new hopes for the future. These hopes animated the whole population, and made men of those who had before been content with a position closely bordering upon a state of slavery. Every man identified himself with the fortunes of his country, and was ready to defend it in the field against the odds of veteran troops led by commanders of experience and renown. At the battle of Valmy—the first that took place between the French and the Allies—the latter were surprised by the courage and determination of the raw troops, gathered in haste and sent into the field without preparation. “Vive la France” was the cry with which Dumouriez incited them in this battle to the decisive charge, and wherever the contest raged, whether in Italy, or on the Rhine along its whole course from the mountains in Switzerland to its far distant outlet in the north, the same appeal was sufficient to lead on to new victories.

It was not only in the field that this sentiment did its work, but at home, where it influenced the population to accomplish the more difficult labor of a patient endurance of adverse circumstances almost infinite in their variety. There was very often a scarcity of provisions, there was privation of social intercourse and of the consolation of religious service, there was a stagnation of business and insecurity of property and of life, there were insurrections, murders, domestic tyranny and the Reign of Terror; all these were patiently endured, because the feeling of patriotism beat strongly in the national heart. This feeling is well represented by the simple expression, “THE NATION AND THE LAW,” which is seen on the early coins. It is shown in an extravagant manner in the establishment of a new era and a new calendar, with the fantastic designation of the intercalary days. When the time came for the establishment of the decimal system of currency, there was a return to the more simple expression of the prevailing sentiment.

The system was adopted on the 18th of Germinal, Year III, April 7, 1795. The monetary unit of this system was the franc, nearly the equivalent of the livre of the old issues. The first coinage was struck in the following year, and only copper coins were issued. The Decime has on the obverse the head of Liberty wearing the Phrygian cap, with the inscription, RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE; on the reverse is the denomination and the date within a wreath of oak leaves. Subsequently this piece received the name

Dix Centimes, which it still bears. The silver Five Franc piece was first issued in the Year V. The writer has not been able to procure a specimen of the coinage of this date, but its characteristics may be seen on the coin of the following year, which is shown in Figures 10 and 11. This was struck from an altered die of the Year V, as may be seen on examination of the number 5 in the date. The inscription on the edge is *GUARANTIE NATIONALE*, National Guaranty. It will be noticed that on the coins of the new system, the prominent idea is that of the Nation, and only the Nation with its republican form of government.

The most important event of the Revolution which occurred after the adoption of the new coinage, was the violent seizure of the Government on the 18th Brumaire, in the Year VIII, when the Consulate was established, with Bonaparte as First Consul, and Cambaceres and Lebrun as Second and Third Consuls. On the first of May in the Year X, the Consulship of Bonaparte was extended ten years, and on the 2d of the following August he was declared Consul for life. These changes of the form of Government were not however followed by any change in the devices and inscriptions of the coin. The impersonal idea of the Republic was still predominant, as it was during the Directory which preceded the Consulate. In the Year XI, the hero worship, which in a short time became extravagant in its ardor, began to show itself. The coin of that year bears on its obverse the head of Bonaparte with his title as *FIRST CONSUL*. The reverse is unchanged. The inscription on the edge is new; it is, *DIEU PROTEGE LA FRANCE*, God protects France. See Figure 12.

On the 28th Florial of the Year XII, 18th of May, 1804, the empire was established, and Bonaparte was proclaimed Emperor. The coin of the Year XIII, presumably issued in the latter part of 1804, records the change. Figures 13 and 14. It will be seen that in conformity to monarchical custom, the first name of the emperor has been used in connection with the new title. The reverse of the coin still bears the familiar legend, *RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE*, which was retained until 1807, notwithstanding it presents the paradox of a republic continuing to exist, while its chief magistrate bore a monarchical title. It is evident that the memory of the Republic was so fresh in the minds of the people as to require its continued recognition in the customary manner.

In 1806 the new computation of time was abandoned and the year of the Julian Calendar was used to express the date on the coins, see Figure 15; the coin is not otherwise changed. In 1809, the change which was being gradually made became complete. On the coin of that year, Figures 16 and 17, there is no reference to the Republic. All traces of it have disappeared, as doubtless every sentiment favorable to it had become obliterated from the country's memory. The idea of personal government, which had been but half expressed on former coins, is now boldly set forth without qualifications. Napoleon is not only emperor, but the realm he governs is the *FRENCH EMPIRE*.

There is another change which was gradually made on the obverse of the coins. It contains a delicate flattery of Bonaparte, and shows how rapidly he was in the thoughts of men becoming himself the State. The head of Bonaparte as First Consul, on the coin of the Year XI, Figure 12, is undoubtedly

a faithful portrait. It corresponds to a cast of his head which was taken after death, and is now in the museum of the Louvre. It also corresponds to the head which appears on a medal struck by the legislative body on the 20th of May, 1802, in honor of the three consuls, whose busts are represented with descriptive legends. On the coin of the Year XIII, Figures 13 and 14, the head of the emperor has a more classic outline than is exhibited on the head of the consul. On the coin of 1809, Figure 16, the head of the emperor has assumed a more commanding shape; it has now the front of Jove, and the conqueror's wreath encircles the brow.

The disposition of the French, as here shown, to present their idol in the most heroic aspect possible, is strikingly illustrated in a picture by David, which was painted to commemorate the passage of the Alps, of which copies in print were very common a few years since. The emperor is on horseback and points in a significant manner to Mount St. Bernard, while the horse rears in a violent manner as if he were about to leap clean over the Alps at a single bound. The fact is the emperor crossed the mountains on a mule with a peasant for a guide.

In 1814 the empire came to an end and the monarchy was restored. The son of Louis XVI having died during the Revolution, his brother, the Comte d'Artois was placed upon the throne, with the title of Louis XVIII. Figures 18 and 19, represent a piece of Five Francs, the coinage of the returning dynasty. It would seem, in looking at this coin, as if—in popular opinion—the country had come back to the point from which it had started in 1789. The only trace of the Revolution visible upon it, is the statement of the denomination, in conformity with the new decimal system. In other respects it is a reproduction of the system of the old *régime*. There is the old court dress, Louis XVIII is King of France, not of the French; the reverse shows the crowned shield, which is blazoned with the Bourbon lily, and the inscription on the edge is as before, DOMINE SALVUM FAC REGEM, God save the King. "The Bourbons never learned anything and never forgot anything," is the saying attributed to Talleyrand. There cannot be found any more forcible illustration of this witty remark than is afforded by the first coins issued by Louis XVIII.

The monarchy was restored, but it was, however, the giving an old name to a new thing. France of 1814 was not the France of 1789. There was no longer any feudal system, no *lettres de cachet*, no Bastille. There was an aristocracy, but it was made of new materials, and it represented a social and not a political distinction; the people were citizens and not serfs, and could rest in confidence on the firm establishment of the main feature of the revolutionary government, that practically all were equal before the law. If the king had learned nothing of all these changes, and had returned the same man who went away, the people had nevertheless become so strong during the preceding twenty-five years, that they could afford to pass over his vain assumptions, and wait with patience the time for rebuking it in a proper manner. The need of rest after so many years' disorder and turmoil, and wars expensive and harrassing, made the country very patient; but finally, in 1830, sixteen years after the restoration, Charles X, who succeeded Louis XVIII, was obliged to leave the country, and the Bourbon Dynasty disappeared forever.



## NOTE.

Soon after the publication of the first part of the foregoing article, in April, 1886, a letter was written to the editor of the *Journal* by a well known correspondent who resides in the State of Kentucky, with reference to the mention made in the article, of the coin bearing the figure of Judaea Devicta on the obverse, and a sow and her farrow on the reverse. The substance of this letter and a subsequent one was that, on examination of many well recognized authorities on the subject of Roman coins relating to events in Jewish history, he had failed to find any representation or mention of the coin as described. There were coins with the head of the Emperor Vespasian on the obverse and either Judaea Devicta or Judaea Capta on the reverse, and one with the head of the Emperor with the sow and her farrow for reverse, but without allusion to Jewish conquests.

The writer's authority for his statement is "Calmet's Dictionary of the Bible." The edition of 1798 embraces two volumes of what are called "Fragments," being selections from histories and travels, illustrative "of the manners, incidents, and phraseology of the Holy Scriptures." These Fragments, numbered from one to five hundred, are accompanied by many beautifully executed plates.

Fragment CCIII, under the title of "Roman Monuments of Judaea Vanquished," describes the Arch of Titus at Rome, the common coins of "Judaea Devicta" and "Judaea Capta," and the coin in question. The arch of Titus and the several varieties of the coins are represented in the plates, the latter piece with obverse and reverse as described in the article.

Finding this piece associated in this manner with the well known Triumphal Arch, and with other coins equally well known, and there being nothing to excite suspicion of the integrity or of the knowledge of the editor of the dictionary, the writer made use of his statement without further question, and was surprised on learning that the existence of the coin was a matter of doubt. The writer has not had any opportunity of examining the authorities on Roman and Jewish coinage, but is satisfied from the statements of the correspondent of the *Journal* already mentioned, and of Mr. W. T. R. Marvin, of Boston, who has written a letter full of friendly interest in the matter, that the authorities do not mention the coin as described in Calmet. The coin may not exist; the editor of Calmet may have been misled by some fabricated piece. There is, however, one view of the matter which makes the existence of the coin as described at least probable.

The device of the sow and her farrow, in its common use on a coin, the obverse of which has the head of a Roman Emperor, has reference to an early Roman legend. The story is told by Virgil in Books III and VIII of the *Aeneid*. When Aeneas was on his way to Italy, he stopped, after his memorable adventure with the Harpies, at Epirus, over a portion of which reigned Helenus, who was as well prophet as king. He foretold to Aeneas that on his arrival in Italy he would find a white sow, and a litter of thirty white pigs, lying under an ilex tree growing on the bank of a secluded river; at this point he would find a secure place of rest and there he would establish himself and build his city. After the arrival of Aeneas in Italy and while he lay sleeping one night on the banks of the Tiber, the prophecy was repeated by the god of the river with the addition that the thirty pigs indicated the thirty years which would elapse between the discovery of the sow and the building of the city by his son Ascanius. The fulfillment of the prophecy occurred the following morning while Aeneas was preparing to ascend the river. He immediately sacrificed the sow and her litter to Juno, and implored her protection.

Now, we have the conquest of Judaea by the Romans, and the legend of the sow and her farrow, both commemorated by appropriate devices on the reverse of coins and the obverse of which bears the head of the imperial conqueror of Jerusalem; there is also the fact that the hog was an unclean animal under the Mosaic dispensation, and was detested by the Jews. It is also well known that the Romans, like other nations of their time, were merciless in their triumphs over defeated enemies. They spared neither their persons, their property, nor their sensibilities. "*Vae victis*" had at that period a terrible signification. It would therefore seem natural that while there was displayed the pitiful figure of Judaea, sitting in chains and weeping disconsolate under a palm tree, the insult of such a boastful device should be aggravated by associating with it the representation of an unclean animal most detested by her people.

Mr. Reginald S. Poole, Keeper of the Department of Coins and Medals in the British Museum, in the Article on Numismatics in the last edition of the *Encyclopedia Britannica*, says that there were struck at Jerusalem "bronze coins, countermarked by the tenth legion quar-

tered by Titus in the ruins of the city; "one of these bears the device of a pig." There is no further description given of the coin, but it is obvious that the device of a pig on a coin struck at Jerusalem was adopted with the same purpose with which one of the Roman Emperors put the statue of a hog over the Temple Gates — that of mocking the sensibilities of the Jewish people, and of adding insult to the injury of conquest.

G. M. P.

## THE MOUNTING OF COINS FOR PUBLIC COLLECTIONS.

BY H. R. STORER, M. D., NEWPORT, R. I.

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FOR several years I have been experimenting with my sons, John H. Storer, of Boston, Curator of the Coins and Medals of Harvard University, and Malcolm Storer, student of medicine, with the view of deciding upon the best method of exhibiting coins belonging to public collections, and at the same time increasing their security against purloining or accidental loss. Ordinarily, however careful the descriptive arrangement, and whether they are placed in drawers, trays, small boxes, etc., coins are so displayed as to exhibit but one of their faces. If in envelopes, not even this is possible. To permit handling by students or casual visitors, is at the risk of disarrangement, not to say theft, and yet if an examination of the pieces is not easily attainable, the usefulness of the collection is practically nullified.

There are several points to be considered.

First. For satisfactory study, both obverse and reverse have to be readily seen.

Second. To prevent tarnish, it is desirable to preserve the coin or medal from handling.

Third. It is important that after examination, the piece should be returned to its exact place. When several coins are compared together, this is very liable not to occur.

Fourth. The specimen is to be preserved from accidental loss, as by falling and rolling into a corner, etc., and from too easy adhesion to a "sticky" palm.

Several methods of securing these ends more or less completely have been tried by us, but all save one have proved objectionable.

*a.* The placing the coin between two plates of glass, either singly or in conjunction with others, and then fastening by rubber bands, adhesive strips of paper, cloth, or parchment along the edges, direct gluing together of the opposed glass surfaces, or imbedding each coin separately in a circlet of adhesive material, as is done with the specimens upon microscopic slides. To each of these proceedings there is the objection that the glasses are easily broken, and that where several coins are thus united together, it is necessary that they should be of the same thickness of planchet, in order to obtain close apposition of the strips of glass. These can be provided with lateral attachments, as in the method and for the purpose next described. The general principle is a practical one, but its application is expensive, cumbersome, and there is much risk of breakage. It is especially useful for preserving the mint lustre.

*b.* Including the coin within a narrow circlet of metal, attached to a straight stem, either pointed or not. In the one case these holders, when loaded, may stand erect, like pins upon a cushion, or rather like rows of them in the manufacturers' cards; in the other, they recline as usual. In both instances there is a certain measure of clumsiness.

*c.* The metal circlet above described is provided with two lateral pointed stems which are fixed, either perpendicularly or horizontally, between opposing wooden surfaces, as the sides of a small drawer, or the partitions of a larger one. Easy rotation of the piece upon the stems as an axis is thus permitted, with the effect of displaying both faces of the coin, without removing or directly touching it. In this manner quite a number of coins can be strung, as it were, upon a long rod, formed of

successive smaller ones, each being enclosed within its separate circlet, so as to occupy the entire width of a drawer or show case. In the latter instance, the rods can pass through the sides of the case and be rotated by outside thumb pieces, without the necessity of at any time opening the case, save for inserting additional specimens, or for re-arrangement.

*d.* Trays can be made with especial reference to display, from sheets of card board or very thin wood, with holes passing completely through, so as to show both back and front of the coin. Into these orifices the coins are fixed, by a direct circlet of glue, double separate circlets of whatever other material, glued upon the outer edges of the specimen, or by wire as in the method next to be mentioned. In this manner single or separate coins may be exhibited, both obverse and reverse being accessible. Moreover, the sheets, large or small, may be attached to lateral stems, as in the methods previously described, and rotated upon their axes, or they may be laid away in drawers, very much as botanical specimens in an herbarium.

Through these several procedures my sons and I have gradually progressed until we reached the far more satisfactory one now to be described, in accordance with which, as Curator of the Coins and Medals of the Newport Historical Society, I have mounted some hundred pieces or more of its already quite large collection.

*e.* The coins are mounted upon separate slips of card board, into which they are wired. Both obverse and reverse are easily inspected, and a full description of each is written upon the card. The slips, for convenience' sake, are of uniform size; in the case of the Newport Historical Society, four inches by five. By mounting but a single coin upon each slip, any desired changes in the arrangement of a collection can be made without the slightest trouble. The slips can stand erect by themselves, or in packs, or be laid flat, one by one or in piles, or by the insertion of an eyelet in each be hung together, in separate series, upon large key rings, or circles of stout wire; or attached separately to the back and sides of a show case, or to the wall of the room. For the present, the Newport Society has adopted the key-ring arrangement, as in this way a numismatic student can, with almost no inconvenience, compare the members of any given series, without the possibility of disarranging them, even were he inclined to do so. For the suggestion of the ring, I am indebted to Mr. R. H. Tilley of Newport, the Society's accomplished Librarian. When thus mounted, it is equally impossible to lose or to steal the specimen without either breaking the wire which confines it, or purloining the whole card bodily, which is still more difficult when attached to the ring, and could hardly be done in the presence of an attendant, though it does so often occur with unmounted specimens; and since the cards are numbered, the absence of one of them from its place would be quickly detected.

The operation of thus mounting a coin is simple, and requires but little time. It is divided into several successive stages; perforating the card, placing the coin, inserting and fastening the wire, (for there is required but one), covering, and labelling. A word upon each of these points will be sufficient.

1. The cheapest card board, as from disused paper boxes, will answer. Its size having been determined upon, a circular disk is cut out, in diameter corresponding with that of the coin. The position of this aperture may be made to vary in accordance with the taste of the curator, and the size of the piece to be inserted. For the Newport Society I place the centre of the pieces just above the centre of the card.

In order to make them uniform I have a slip of paper, the exact size of the standard coin card of the Society. This paper has two pin holes, one above the other, through which openings each blank card is pricked to give the centre of its circle; for a small coin the upper hole being used, and for a large one the lower. I formerly cut the openings by a penknife, having previously described the required circle by compasses, but now quickly effect both these ends at once by employing the circle cutter used by plumbers in making their leather and rubber "washers." This is previously gauged to the exact size of the coin by ascertaining the diameter of the latter upon the coin scale, and halving this to obtain the radius of the required circle. The bit stock usually accompanying the instrument I have not found necessary.



2. Having gauged the cutter, I ordinarily test it upon a waste scrap of card board. If the coin accurately fits the orifice thus made, one is certain not to spoil the card he is about preparing. If the preliminary hole is a trifle too large or too small for the coin, the gauge of the cutter is proportionately altered.

3. The card having been properly perforated, similar circles are cut from two pieces of clean unruled letter paper, before changing the gauge of the instrument. These paper slips, whose use will be hereafter perceived, must correspond in size with the card.

4. Four pin holes are now pricked just outside the four quarters of the circular opening in the card, but not in the corresponding slips of paper. Into these perforations a fine but strong copper wire is inserted crosswise, in such a way as upon placing the coin in the card, the wire will be crossed once over both obverse and reverse. I used at first two wires, fastening each separately, by twisting the cut extremities, but subsequently found that a single wire answered much better. A little practice will suffice to overcome the seeming difficulty. The wire ordinarily required in mounting the Newport cards ranges from seven to ten inches in length.

5. After the coin has been inserted, taking care that the obverse is true in position, at right angles with the upper edge of the card, the wire is drawn tight and twisted by a pair of forceps. This can be done with the fingers, but the instrument does better. It is then found that the coin is immoveably fixed in the card, even lateral rotation being difficult, if the opening has been made to accurately correspond. The perforated pieces of letter paper, previously described, are now pasted upon the back and front of the card, at once giving a neater finish to it and entirely concealing the extremities of the wire and the perforations through which it had passed. The necessity of this might seem avoidable if a glazed card were used. This is true so far as concerns a proper surface for writing, but the advantage that is gained by concealing the wires more than counterbalances the additional trouble. Otherwise, it would be easier to untwist the wire and abstract the coin. With the precaution described this can only be done by tearing up the stiff and strongly adherent paper covering. I have endeavored to meet these requirements by using the glazed cardboard and covering the wire apertures and twisted ends by a mere ring of white paper, or small square or circular patches, but the trouble to do this is nearly as great as where the full sized paper slips are used, and the general result is not as satisfactory.

6. The card is now ready for inscription. In the Newport cabinet they are labelled as follows. In the upper left hand corner is written the name of the country; in the upper right hand corner that of its then ruler; directly over the piece, its appellation, value and date; to the left of the coin, the description of its obverse; to the right, that of its reverse; immediately below the coin, the condition of the edges and rim, whether milled or not, and whether there is any inscription upon the latter, which should be ascertained before the coin has been wired. Here too may be stated the material and size, though these are self-evident; and if gold or silver, the weight in grains. Still further below, to the left, "The gift of," with name of donor, and date, or if by exchange or purchase. Upon the back of the card, in pencil (so as to admit of easy change), its running number; and (in ink) any remarks, as of works where described, appearance in sale catalogues, prices at same, whether there are duplicates in collection or not, etc., etc.

I have described our method at this length, to save other curators and collectors the trouble we ourselves have had. After a little practice it will be found satisfactory. The only plausible objection that will be likely to be made, is that there are coins and medals of such rarity, easily destructible material, or delicacy of execution, that it is advisable to keep them from contact with the atmosphere as well as from touch. This however can be attained with the cards, by merely placing layers of tissue paper or cotton wool between them. Where it is desired to mount medals of considerable thickness and weight, it is necessary to obtain a corresponding thickness in the card by gluing together two or more of the ordinary blanks. It is better to make their openings with the gauged cutter beforehand, than to attempt it after they have been



attached together. If standard cards are used, their edges, etc., will accurately correspond. In mounting, time is saved by having a number of cards, paper slips and wires, previously prepared, of sizes to correspond with each other. It may eventually prove worth the while of some coin dealer to prepare these articles in quantity, by machinery, and keep them in stock; perhaps of some uniform size to be generally determined upon as standard, as has been done with the coin scale, and with fenestrae of different diameters in accordance with this. To furnish cards in this manner, would have certain great advantages.

I. A card thus mounted, if properly described, is permanently available for every collection, whether public or private. Any one familiar with the old cigar boxes, and bureau and table drawers, in which many collections are kept, or if an attempt exists at arrangement, the wrapping in scraps of newspaper, will appreciate what this means.

II. It would facilitate interchange, as of duplicates.

III. It would be much more readily catalogued in a collection, or for public sale.

IV. As a coin accurately known and described is always enhanced in pecuniary worth, frequently a hundredfold, so one thus prepared would always have a certain and definite market value.

V. For historical or instructive purposes, it would ever be ready for use, saving many minutes or hours in identification and hunting up references.

VI. The name of successive owners, if inscribed upon the card, would aid numismatic authors as well as collectors, as regards fixing the identity of any specimen with the original of a published description.

There are other recommendations still, which it is needless to specify. It is my object to interest collectors and aid curators, saving their time and rendering it easy for them to permanently attach to each specimen its entire history. When this shall be generally done, numismatics will be lifted to a higher level, and be more frequently recognized as a science.

## EARLY BOOKS PUBLISHED OF NUMISMATICS.

[Continued from Vol. xx, p. 34.]



IN THE present number of the *Journal* I beg to communicate to its *clientele*, my notes upon the first of the books to which I referred in my preceding memorandum, headed as above. The work, then, now under review, is one published by 'Æneas Vicus' of Parma, at Venice, in A. D. 1553,\* and having for title these:

OMNIVM CAESARVM VERISSIMAE IMAGINES EX ANTIQVIS NVMISMATIS DESVMPTAE ADDITA PER BREVI CVIVSQVE VITAE DESCRIPTIONE AC DILIGENTI EORVM, QVAE REPERIRI POTVERVNT NVMISMATVM, AVERSAE PARTIS DELINIATIONE. LIBRI PRIMI. EDITIO ALTERA. [The most correct likenesses of all the Caesars, from ancient coins, etc.]

Before me lies the quarto (bound in a vellum leaf taken from an early manuscript Latin Dictionary), filled with impressions from copper plates engraved by Vico, in number eighty odd, which may be thus classified:—

a. An ornamental architectonic title-page. b. Twelve portrait medallions of the following Caesars, viz: Julius, (Oct.) Augustus, Tiberius, Caligula, Claudius, Nero, Galba, Otho, Vitellius, Vespasian, Titus, and Domitian, every

\* Not the 1st edition.

likeness being accompanied by a brief amount of matter touching each respective life, engraved, not printed, and set within an ornamental framework. *c.* The remainder of the plates, consisting of full-sized illustrations, each page containing a dozen designs taken from reverses of coins in gold, silver, and brass, issued by the imperial rulers just mentioned. These copper-plates have been engraved in a series of circles exactly similar in diameter, no matter what the volume of the original coin may have been, and are thus open to the same criticisms which I offered when touching, in my last paper, upon a like point; but, so far as I have had time and opportunity to compare Vico's delineations with the pieces issued, his clean cut figures and devices seem very fair representations of the original designs, without attempting to be productions in *fac-simile*.

It may be of interest to mention a few of the types which Vico has given, and I have selected such as can be readily recognized by collectors and students. Under the Augustan division appears the well-known issue of the Colony of Nemausus (Nismes) in Gallia, having a crocodile chained to a palm tree, with COL. NEM. inscribed on the field. Under the same emperor,



a

(Augustus) is given the reverse of a butting bull, with IMP. X. inscribed in exergue. This is most spirited, and I should certainly think was carried out, with certain modifications, from the beautiful reverse found on coins of Thurium in Magna Graecia. And this my impression is confirmed by another engraving, also placed under Augustus,



b

in which the design, a lion seizing on a stag by leaping on its back, is assuredly copied, in motive, if not in exact attitude, from one of the Greek pieces appertaining to Hylea. Another reverse attributed to Augustus, is the prominent dolphin and anchor type, with the inscription "Festina lente," usually placed to the credit of Titus, and which does indeed appear in Vico's series from the issues of that potentate, but with this legend, TR. P. IX. IMP. XV. COS. VIII. PP. The dolphin and anchor, and "Festina lente," recurs once more as an example of an aureus coined by Domitian. Again, among the Vespasian set, I perceive the sow and her farrow, which was alluded to by Mr. Parsons at the commencement of his recent paper on "Medals of the French Revolution of 1789."

Under both Vespasian and Titus appear reverses connected with the siege and destruction of Jerusalem. Of these there are the following: After the brasses of Vespasian: 1. With inscription JUDÆA CAPTA; in exergue, s. c., the palm tree with female captive and shield to right; a standing, helmeted warrior and trophy of arms grouped to left. 2. With seated female and buckler to right, and trophy of arms alone to left of palm tree; inscription as on No. 1. 3. With similar inscription, a crouching female, without shield, to right, and a warrior, armed with a spear, and standing with his left foot on a helmet, to left of palm tree. After the silver of Vespasian: 4. Almost exactly the same design as No. 3, but without any inscription. 5. Female seated on ground to right, no palm tree, but to left a high trophy of arms; in exergue, JUDÆA. 6. From an aureus of Vespasian; design and inscription

as on No. 5. 7. From a brass of Titus is given another reverse, viz: the central palm; to its left the seated, grieving female; to its right a helmeted, but otherwise nude, captive warrior, and a trophy of helmets, shields, and spears; the inscription runs thus across the field, <sup>JUD. CAP.</sup><sub>S. C.</sub>

Of this *JUDÆA CAPTA* type there are quite a number of other varieties; and probably some day I may return to the subject, with the view to place before the readers of the *Journal* a few drawings and descriptions taken directly, by myself, from specimens 'come-atable' in the British Museum, or garnered elsewhere in private cabinets in London.

I should like to mention that Vico, or properly Vighi (Enea), was born at Parma early in the sixteenth century. His human figures are 'charged,' *i. e.* over-accentuated in muscular form, like the Farnese Hercules, but his graver, under the tuition of Marc Antonio, acquired considerable clearness and power.

To illustrate this paper, I have prepared an initial letter, showing a pair of gladiators engaging, from a coin of Claudius Caesar, as interpreted by Vico, and have given *a.* the butting bull (Augustan) as figured by that artist; and *b.* the same design from a Greek die.

WM. TASKER NUGENT.

### MEDICAL NUMISMATICS.

WE reprint the following note from the *Philadelphia Medical and Surgical Reporter*, endorsing its suggestions. The only collections of any magnitude in this direction, which we now recall, were those made by Dr. Wm. Lee of Washington, D. C., which was quite an extensive one and contained many rare pieces, and the one very much more general in its scope, embracing apothecaries' cards, and indeed whatsoever bore "the emblems of mortality," as well as strictly medical medals, made by Dr. Woodward, and scattered in his Sixty-ninth Sale. We believe Dr. Lee has disposed of his duplicates, but still retains his cabinet. It is a pity that when a collector has gathered "with labor and sorrow" a fine cabinet in some special line of study, he should feel impelled by some occult power to disperse it again. We recall several such events in numismatic circles. Regrets are unavailing, but we could wish that there was a power which might forbid their cause—at least until a careful and minute description of these special groups of medals could be filed with the Librarian of some Numismatic Society for preservation.

THOSE who consider collectors of old coins and medals as harmless but useful monomaniacs, have little idea how much of history finds its strongest and often its only support in just such collections. There are no relics of the past more valuable for certain important investigations than coins and medals. They reveal the condition of art, and preserve the names and figures of generations long obliterated.

Medicine itself can be historically studied from its medals and from evidence derived from coins, and we are glad to announce that this fruitful field is now under active cultivation by one of the most highly cultivated physicians of our country—Dr. Horatio R. Storer, of Newport, R. I. At a recent meeting of the Newport Historical Society, he stated that he is at work upon the history of medicine from a numismatist's point of view. As special collections in this branch are rare, any of our readers who possess medals or coins in any way illustrating medical events or distinguished physicians, or discoveries in the profession, should place themselves in communication with Dr. Storer, and aid him in his researches.

We have no doubt that the prosecution of this study will throw light on some of the dark corners of medical history, as it has upon the political and personal life of many remote ages and localities.

## TREASURE TROVE.

AN English Magazine states that a singular discovery of gold coins has been made at Park Street, a little village on the southern borders of Bedfordshire, and has been reported to the Treasury. A man in the employment of Mr. Boff, carpenter and builder, was engaged in splitting some oak beams, when, in the centre of one of them, he came upon a cavity, out of which rolled a number of bright coins. The hole had been neatly formed, and was circular in shape, having apparently been drilled into the wood, and it was fitted with a plug to conceal it. On further search being made, another hiding place of the same kind was found, also containing treasure. The coins, which number over a hundred, consist of nobles, angels, and half angels, and vary in date from the reign of Henry VI to that of Henry VIII. They are in excellent preservation. Some of them bear the figure of St. Michael, others a ship with a cross for a mast, and all have Latin inscriptions upon them. The largest coins are about the size of a half crown, and the smallest resemble a sovereign. It is not known at present where the beam in which the treasure was found came from, as Mr. Boff has recently pulled down several old farm houses and other buildings in that neighborhood.

## SOME RECENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS.

AT Rome, while erecting some new buildings in the Via dello Statuto, a room was discovered of an ancient Roman house, with walls decorated in what is known as the style of Pompeii. In the Via Gallilei a large edifice for baths was found with "tubulated rooms," and adorned with rich marble decorations.

While excavations were in progress around the great mausoleum of Marcus Lucilius Peto, discovered last year outside the Porta Salaria, the workmen unearthed the interior portion of the sepulchre containing the cinerary urns as well as the marble busts of that noble monument. It has been ascertained that at the end of the fourth century of the Christian era, this was used as a small cemetery, and much of it destroyed.

At Oberdorf, in the vicinity of Memel, Prussia, Dr. Tischler, director of the Provincial Museum of Königsberg, has discovered sepulchres, some of which date from the third century, while others are of the twelfth. They contain urns, Roman coins, lances, knives, rings, bracelets, etc. Dr. Tischler is arranging these important relics of the past, and will publish a description of them.

An urn of clay lately found while a ditch was being dug on the east side of the Isle of Gothland, has been sent to Stockholm Museum. It contains 2696 unbroken and 191 broken silver coins, part with old German and part with Anglo-Saxon stamps. There are besides silver bracelets, some with figurings appended to them, and also some rods of the finest silver, such as in early times were cut and used instead of money. The total weight of the treasure is about nine pounds. The chief interest for antiquarians and numismatists lies in the fact that old German and Anglo-Saxon coins have been found together.

While making excavations at Chester, Eng., a pig of Roman lead, in excellent preservation, was discovered at a depth of twenty-three feet below the ground. It bears on its upper surface the following inscription: IMP VESP AVG V T IMP III. ; while on the side is inscribed DE CEANGI. Its weight is 192 pounds. The translation of the inscription is that it was a pig of lead, a tribute to the Roman power from the tribe in



North Wales, commonly known as the Ceangi. The inscription tells us that it was cast during the fifth consulate of the Emperor Vespasian and the third consulate of Titus. This synchronizes with our date A. D. 74; and consequently it may be assumed that the pig of lead has been lying where it was found some 1800 years. The ground wherein it was discovered was gravel and marl, which evidently formed part of the old river bed. Close to it was found a human skull, and another was discovered about fifteen feet away.

### CHANGES AT THE MINT.

THE resignation of Mr. Patterson DuBois, on October 1, last, from his position as Assistant Assayer in the United States Mint, which he had occupied for many years, will be a cause of regret to numismatists, as it removes from that department a name which has been associated with United States coinage—more particularly with the delicate and careful manipulations which test the fineness of the metals employed—so long that it seems as if a portion of the old historic building had been taken away. Fifty-three years ago in September last, his father, the late Wm. Ewing DuBois, began his labors as Director's Clerk at the Mint; a year or so later he was transferred to the Assay Department, and in 1836 was appointed Assistant Assayer, and completed forty-five years of service in that position, which he occupied until his death in July, 1881. The son, Patterson DuBois, succeeded him, and thus for over fifty years the name has been intimately connected with this department. The eminent ability of the senior DuBois is too well known to require allusion to it, by the *Journal*, for our readers will doubtless recall the tributes to his character which appeared in the journals of that day, and remember with pleasure his bright and interesting contributions to the pages of this Magazine.

The son, an accomplished gentleman, of artistic tastes, and known among his more intimate friends as having no little poetic talent, has inherited a goodly portion of his father's skill, as well as his facile and graceful pen. The intelligence, the conscientious and even enthusiastic devotion he displayed in the performance of his responsible duties, were most thoroughly appreciated by his associates and superior officers, while the interest he imparted to the papers relating to Numismatics and kindred topics which have appeared from time to time in the *Journal* and elsewhere, have attracted the attention of many beside coin students, both at home and abroad.

It is to this fact that we attribute the change he has made, from the balances of the Mint to the "sanctum" of the Managing Editor of the *Sunday School Times*, after twenty years' intimacy with the retorts and crucibles of the Assay-room. We tender our regrets to his old friends and our congratulations to his new ones, doubting not that in his present position he will display the same fidelity and skill which have distinguished him in the past.

His successor is Mr. Wm. J. McIntire, a gentleman of considerable experience, who we learn is eminently fitted for the place and will bring credit to the service.

Mr. F. C. Hearing, shipping clerk, has resigned to accept a position in the office of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad. Mr. Charles F. Donnelly, a conveyancer by profession, has been appointed to the vacancy. Mr. A. M. S. Brinckle, lately connected with the Assay Department, has also recently resigned, but we have seen no mention of the appointment of a successor.

Julia A. Dorff, who was appointed to a place in the adjusting department under President Fillmore, November, 1850, died October 13 last, at the age of 65. She was the oldest employè in the Mint in point of continuous service, and the amount of money in gold and silver that she has handled as a "counter," which has been her occupation for the greater part of her term of service, is estimated at billions of dollars—probably more than that handled by any other woman in the world.

## MEDICAL MEDALS.

In a German sale Catalogue we notice one or two Medical medals mentioned, one of which we do not remember to have seen offered in America, and the other is very rare. The first bears a bust of Dr. J. F. Blumenbach, and three skulls; a more complete description is lacking; it was struck in 1825, to commemorate, as we take it, the fiftieth anniversary of his receiving his degree, which was conferred at Göttingen in 1775; he was a professor in that institution for more than half a century, and it was he who first suggested the now almost universally accepted division of the race into five families, Caucasian, Mongolian, etc., while at the same time he maintained the unity of the species. He died in 1840. Silver, weight 54.5 grammes, (Knyphausen, 7271.)

Another is of Dr. Fr. J. Gall, who was a German physician, distinguished as the founder of the science of phrenology, born 1758 and died 1828. This medal, which was struck in 1805, has his bust to right, with long queue, and on the rev. a skull, etc., with the legend *DISTRIBUIT PARTES ANIMAE SEDESQUE*; baldly and literally, "He distributed the parts of the mind and their location;" or, more liberally, He determined and located the places in the brain and skull where the different mental characteristics manifest themselves. It would be difficult to find a legend which better shows the peculiar adaptability of the Latin language for the purpose, or one conveying so much in so few words as this. The medal is of silver, weight 17.5 grammes, and is size 25. An impression is mentioned in the Ampach catalogue, 9525; it has occasionally been catalogued in America, and one appeared in Dr. Woodward's 69th sale (1421), but it is quite rare.

## FRENCH REVOLUTIONARY MEDALS.

I do not feel quite assured that, in his most interesting papers on the French Revolution of 1792, now current in the *Journal of Numismatics*, Mr. Parsons intends to describe *seriatim* the pieces which form the illustrations to the July number; but, in any case, I take it, the gentleman will not object to information thereon, coming from sources other than his own. I therefore submit the following Notes, respecting coin marked No. 6 on the plate referred to above, and further regarding Duvivier's medal mentioned at page 8.

Many years ago, a pattern piece of the type of No. 6 passed my hands and scrutiny, and I transcribe hereunder the memorandum which I then made in my Numismatic Manuscript Book, and which I accompanied by a sketch of the design.

"This piece was put forward in honor of the famous fête of Aug. 10, 1793, as will appear from a perusal of the following sentences, extracted from Thiers' History of the French Revolution.

"On the 10th, the fête commenced at daybreak. The celebrated painter David was entrusted with its arrangement. The Convention, the envoys of the primary assemblies, eighty-six *representants* of eighty-six departments etc., etc., the popular societies and all armed sections, ranged themselves round a great fountain, named the *Fountain of Regeneration*. This fountain was formed of a huge statue of Nature, which from its breasts poured out water into a vast basin. The moment the sun gilded the tops of the houses, they saluted it, singing some verses to the Marseillaise air. The President of the Convention took a cup, poured on the ground the water of regeneration, drank some of it, transmitted the cup to the representatives of the departments, who each drank in his turn.' [This is the action selected by the designer of the piece, Dupré, as will readily be seen on reference to the heliotype.] The reverse presents a wreath of oak and olive, within which are '5 Décimes l'an 2' and round the rim, in sunken letters, 'Egalité, Liberté, Indivisibilité.' Material, light-colored bronze. Size 11. This coin was never issued for circulation."

With respect to the medal designed by Duvivier, to commemorate the new French era, and its commencement on Sept. 22, 1792, I find the following in my common-place book:—

"Sept. 20, 1793. The Convention (National) after hearing a Report by the Committee of Public Information, respecting a new division of the year, decreed:— 1. The era of the French shall be reckoned from the day of the foundation of the Republic, which took place Sept. 22, 1792, at the moment when the sun entered the equinoctial line in the sign of the balance. 2. The common or vulgar era is abolished," etc.

From this it follows that the new era was antedated by a twelvemonth all but two days (Duvivier's medal, of course, following suit), and lasted, as I have learned, with all its fantastic divisions and titles, until 1806.

WM. TASKER NUGENT.

WIMBLEDON, Surrey, Oct. 1886.

### ALCHEMISTIC MEDALS.

THE following list of Coins and Medals, commemorating alleged transmutations, being extracts from a paper on "Alchemy and Numismatics," by Henry Carrington Bolton, has been communicated to the *Journal* by the author. The paper itself has been kindly promised us for our next issue. Dr. Bolton writes that

No attempt is made in this extract to be complete; inscriptions and details are found in the original paper. This is, moreover, not a history of transmutations. To the list of coins and medals may be added as witnesses the marble tablet erected by Rudolph II, in the castle of Prague, to commemorate the transmutation by Sendivogius Polonus, in 1604; also the copper pfennig changed to gold by Lascaris at Vienna in 1716; also the rings, buttons and other objects treasured as heirlooms in German families. But these are not numismatical. The curious reader may consult J. C. Beckmann's *Anhaltische Chemie I. De ducato aureo Augusti ex aureo chemico facto* (circa 1712); Scheler's *Beschreibung derer zu Ehren des Königs in Schweden . . . 1632 geprägten . . . Thalern*, in Hirschius' *Bibliotheca numismatica, Norimb.* 1760; and E. R. Spiess' *Brandenburgische Münzbelustigungen, Anspach*, 1768-74.

1312. Raymund, or Rose-nobles, coined by Edward II of England from gold made by Raymund Lully. (*Camden's Britannia*, 1586; Selden's *Mare Clausum*, 1635).

1622 and 1634. Ducats coined by Gustavus Adolphus of Sweden from hermetic gold. (Figured in J. F. Buddeus' *Untersuchung von der Alchemie*, 1733.)

1647. Ducats coined by Christian IV of Denmark from gold made by Caspar Harbach. (Köhler's *Münzbelustigungen, Nürnberg*, 1787.)

1647. Medal struck by Ferdinand III from gold made by J. P. Hofmann. (Figured in *Nützliche Versuche und Bemerkungen aus dem Reiche der Natur, Nürnberg*, 1760.)

1648. Medal of 300 ducats' value struck by Ferdinand III, January 15th, from gold made by Richthausen. (Figured in J. J. Becher's *Oedipus chemicus, Amst.* 1664, and in W. Cooper's *Philosophical Epitaph. London*, 1673.)

1651. Medal struck by Ferdinand III, preserved at Schloss Ambras, Tyrol. (Keyssler's *Reisen I*, 38; Reyer's *De numis quibusdam ex chymico metallo factis. Kilia*, 1692.)

1658. Mainzer ducats coined from gold made by the Elector John Philipp of Mainz. (Monconys' *Voyages, I*, 379.)

1675. Ducats coined by Leopold I from gold made by Wenzel Seyler. (Gottfr. Heintz. Burghard's *Destillirkunst. Brieg*, 1748.)

1677. Medallion struck by Leopold I from gold made by Wenzel Seyler. Still preserved in the Imperial Cabinet of Coins, Vienna. (Figured in Bauer's *Chemie und Alchymie in Oesterreich. Wien*, 1883.)

1677 to 1686. Eight different coins and medals struck by Margrave George William of Baireuth, the patron of the noted imposter Krohnemann. (Figured in Fikenscher's *Geschichte Baron von Krohnemann. Nürnberg*, 1800.)

1687. Coin bearing effigy of Frederick, Duke of Saxony, and alchemical symbols. (Buddeus' *op. cit.*)
1704. Gold pieces made by a stranger and given to George Stolle, a Leipzig goldsmith. (*Edelgeborne Jungfrau Alchymia. Tübingen, 1730.*)
1706. A medal and 147 ducats by Charles XII of Sweden, from gold made by Paykull. (Henckel's *Alchymistische Briefe*, Th. I.)
1710. Medals coined by Master of the Mint at Lyons, from gold made by Delisle. (Lenglet du Fresnoy, *Histoire de la philosophie hermétique. Paris, 1741.*)
1717. Several hundred ducats of gold coined by Landgrave Ernest Louis, and one hundred thalers of silver by the same. (*Güldenfolk's Sammlung Transmutationsgeschichten. Frankfurt, 1784.*)

### CURIOUS TASTES OF COLLECTORS.

THERE is no occupation which gives more pleasure, aside from one's regular employment, than that of forming a collection. It is all very well for those who have never undertaken such work to laugh at it as useless, or as a hobby. But it is *not* useless to gather a cabinet of coins, and familiarize one's self with their history, their characteristics and peculiarities, and to study, even although with no great labor and research, the numberless branching ways into which the science of Numismatics leads its votaries. The mythology of the ancient coins, the devices of the earliest and the most modern, the heraldry of the medieval, the mysterious emblems displayed on the medals of the alchemists, the mystics, the Freemasons, and various younger secret societies, the quips and sarcasm of satirical pieces, the story of wars and their privations suggested by siege pieces and coins of necessity, the designs of decorations and Order crosses, of medals of merit and award, even the simple changes shown in our own national coins, furnish endless topics of interest, "full of voices to those who can understand and will listen." But to the readers of the *Journal of Numismatics* no defence of their favorite study is needed.

A "hobby" is what? The term is apt to be used derisively, but not always correctly or deservedly. "Men are but children of a larger growth," and they need amusement and relaxation as well as the youngsters. Webster defines a hobby as a subject or plan one is constantly setting off; a favorite and ever-recurring theme of discourse, thought or effort; that which occupies one's attention unduly, or to the weariness of others. This is, no doubt, the correct definition of the word; but suppose that we modify the idea a little, and take it with moderation; let the subject be one of interest to him who pursues it, his favorite theme, which occupies not an undue share of his attention, but his leisure moments, his hours of relaxation. It is surprising to those who have never tried it, when they discover how much solid information can be garnered up by comparatively little effort in spare minutes; and yet if a man happens to be known as devoting his attention to some pursuit or study congenial to his tastes, but which is regarded as outside his legitimate business, he is too often the object of a covert sneer, an unfriendly comment, or some "left-handed" joke which carries a sting; and these often come from those who have not the ability to take up such work themselves, or whose sloth and "constitutional fatigue" stand like the lions in the way of Pilgrim at the gate of the Palace Beautiful, and seem to render all effort unavailing. If a collector "rides his hobby" in such a way that his "moderation is known to all men" who have any knowledge of his tastes and inclinations, there can be no just ground for criticism.

Stamp collecting comes nearest to coin collecting of any similar pursuit. The incidental knowledge which may be acquired on geographic and historic points is surpassed only by that gained from the study of coins; heraldry has a share in giving interest to the occupation, as the arms of rulers and nations are not unfrequently blazoned on these little bits of paper that serve as wings for our letters. The danger of counterfeits, the defaced condition in which the large majority of stamps are of necessity gathered, and the lack of intrinsic worth in a cancelled stamp, give an ele-



ment of doubt to the value of such a collection. When "philately" began to take a prominent place among "hobbies," the dealers in stamps were few, and public opinion regarded it as a whim of the hour, which ere long would vanish. But it has held its own beside its sister study, and collections of great value and wide extent have been made, and the interest of its votaries has not waned, but rather increased.

Another useful and interesting employment for the leisure hours of a collector, is the acquisition of autographs, which has much to commend it. Here the student of biography, of literature, of politics and history finds an ample field. It is said that this is a *penchant* of Queen Victoria, and that she possesses the best set of autographs of the signers of the Declaration in existence. In the neighborhood of Boston there are several fine collections of autographs. Not to mention one by no means to be undervalued, belonging to a member of the Publishing Committee of the *Journal*, which I can say from personal knowledge is rich in several directions, the portfolio of Dr. John S. H. Fogg, of South Boston, has some very rare and valuable specimens, and is one of the most complete within our knowledge. Hon. M. P. Kennard, of Brookline, has a good collection, with several choice examples of letters from poets and men of note, and which he has made more interesting by adding to it, so far as they could be obtained, portrait engravings of the writers. Mr. George M. Towle, the well-known lecturer and author, also of Brookline, possesses many original letters and autographs of the public men of England and the Continent, of authors, poets, and statesmen, and there are many more, which might be named, but whose owners, like those already mentioned, have made the acquisition of their treasures a pleasurable recreation, without a thought of publicity.

Then again might be mentioned the collectors of archaeological curiosities, concerning whom Dr. Woodward can enlighten your readers, but my knowledge in this direction, of collectors and cabinets, is limited; the frequent sales of such objects—which seem to be increasing in number—show that there must be an extensive clientage for dealers. Next come the gatherers of bric-a-brac, the *connoisseurs* of old china, and many more riders of similar "hobbies," amateurs of early prints and engravings, collectors of early editions of Caxton and Dame Juliana Berners, of the Aldines, etc., but even the briefest reference to these would protract this rambling letter, too long, you will think, already.

There are other whims of collectors, less laudable. A French gentleman has a mania for piling his shelves with every known variety of snuff box; a lady was mentioned in a society magazine, not long ago, who had made a collection of all the varieties of fans of all countries and times that she could obtain. A curious taste of—a smoker, we imagine—has led him to procure some hundreds of pipes, Indian and mound builders', prehistoric stone age and modern, with doubtless a "church warden" and a "dhudeen;" the democratic "T D," the tasselled tube of the Dutchman, the painted porcelain of the German student, the twisting stems and crystal vases of the Persian nargile and the Hindoo hookah, the carved meerschaum of the "gilded youth," and the simple corn-cob of the Hoosier, are all on exhibition amid his smoky treasury. I have recently seen a list of French collections of curios, which mentions a lady who collected nothing but knitting and crochet needles; another who has brought together many hundred corset-busks. Among them are some which belonged to Marie Antoinette, Mme. de Stael, the Empress Josephine, and Christine of Sweden. Several are made of precious metal and set in jewels. "Another enthusiast pays high prices for old gloves of all the great beauties of the last two centuries and a half. A third collects wigs. He bought for two hundred guineas one which had been worn by Sterne, and paid two hundred francs for a very dirty one that belonged to Immanuel Kant. A fourth has spent \$300,000 in acquiring old postage stamps of all nations." All these may have something, however little it be, to commend them, but what possible advantage or benefit a person can obtain from gathering up post-marks, conductors' punch stamps, rubber hand stamps, tin and paper tobacco tags and the like, with all the weakness for collecting which we confess to having ourselves, passes the comprehension of

JONATHAN OLDBUCK.

## A MEXICAN MASONIC.

THE Masonic Medals struck in the Spanish American countries of Central and South America are quite rare, and those of Mexico unusually so, owing to the opposition of the Roman Catholic Church to the Fraternity. Mr. W. E. Woodward has lately shown me a Mexican piece, struck by the Lodge Acacia, of Tepic, one of the largest towns in the State of Jalisco. The description is as follows:—

*Obv.* Within a border composed of an endless chain, the square and compasses enclosing the letter G; below is a sprig of acacia. Legend on the field within the chain, RESP.: ☐ "ACACIA NO. 32." AL OR.: DE TEPIC; at the bottom the date ★ 5631 ★ [Worshipful Lodge Acacia, No. 32 in the Orient of Tepic.] The square shows the division into inches. The date, 5631, corresponds to 1871. *Rev.* Within a similar chain border is a radiant triangle, bearing the All-seeing eye; below the triangle, curving upward on the field within the chain, R.: E.: A.: Y.A.: As Mexican Freemasonry sprang from the Grand Orient of France, and works under the "Scottish rite," I read these letters *Rit Ecossais Ancien y* (= et) *Accepte, i. e.,* Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite.

The Medal is of silver, size 23, and has a swivel and bar at the top for suspension by a ribbon.

W. T. R. M.

## A RARE POLISH DUCAT.

A RECENT sale catalogue of Zschiesche and Loder, of Leipzig, gives a cut and description of a rare gold ducat of John Casimir, King of Poland, from which we take the following.

*Obv.* A naked laureated bust, to observer's right, within a wreath of laurel. Legend, ✠ IOAN · CASI · D · G ✠ REX · POLO · & SVE. Below the head, TLB The leaves of the wreath touch many of the letters in the legend, and also the hair and back of the head.

*Rev.* A Lithuanian knight riding to left, and brandishing a sword above his head, over which is a crown, and all within a laurel wreath; under his feet is a device which the publishers translate for us as a monogram of H. K. P. L. but which we confess our inability to decipher. Legend, MON · AVRE · MAG ✠ DVCA · LIT · 1666 ✠ The crosses are at the top and bottom.

Only a single example of this piece, which is marked RRR, is known beside this; that was a very good impression, No. 856 in the Pless catalogue, where it brought 175 thalers. It appears to be about size 14, American scale, and is said to be in fine condition. The price at which it is held is two hundred and fifty dollars.

## TRANSACTIONS OF SOCIETIES.

## THE NUMISMATIC AND ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY OF PHILADELPHIA.

A STATED meeting of the Society was held on Thursday evening, October 7, 1886, at its hall, Eighteenth and Chestnut Streets, President Brinton in the chair.

A communication from Mr. James Deans, of British Columbia, "On certain curious practices of the Haidah Indians of Vancouver's Island," and a paper from Mr. W. E. A. Axon, of Manchester, England, "On the Origin of Paper Money," were read. \* \* \* Among the donations to the cabinet were two French pieces of the fifteenth century known as *grands blancs*, from a recent find in the Commune Ploneis, one of Charles VII (1436-1461), and the other of Louis XI (1461-1483), from M. Paul du Chatellier, of Brittany. Numerous valuable gifts to the library were reported. The President spoke at some length, referring to the most important subjects discussed before the Archaeological Section of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, at its last meeting in Buffalo.

The death was announced of Mr. Joseph E. Temple, a resident member of the Society, which took place on August 29, 1886, in the seventy-fifth year of his age.

## A RARE COLONIAL JETON OF LOUIS XV.

MR. FROSSARD lately received through a European dealer a few copper jetons, discovered among the duplicates of a North German provincial public museum. Up to the time of this discovery this particular issue was deemed the rarest of the series, only one specimen in silver being found in America, and that in the cabinet of Wm. S. Appleton, of Boston. The pieces received are of uniform size and thickness, and from the same obverse and reverse dies; all are bright red. *Obv.* Naked bust laureate r., M below; LUD XV REX CHRISTIANISS. *Rev.* A swarm of bees flying over the waters from one bee hive to another; SEDEM NON ANIMAM MUTANT; in exergue, COL. FRANC. DE L'AM, 1755. Border serrated, edge plain, size 18½ Am. scale.

## COIN SALES.

## LOW'S SALE.

THE collection of coins and medals belonging to Rev. Dr. Foster Ely, catalogued by Lyman H. Low, was sold by Bangs & Co., New York. Nov. 29 and 30. The most desirable pieces brought good prices, as follows: *Dollars*.—1794, v. g., \$60 (cost 75); '98, 13 stars, 5; do., 15 stars, 9; '99, 5 stars, 4; 1800, 4; '36, fair, 9; '38, proof, 80; '39, pr., 44; '50, pr., 4 20; '51, pr., 53; '52, pr., 52.50; '54, f. 8.20; '55, v. f., 6; '56, pr., 11; '57, pr., 5; '58, pr., 44. *Half Dollars*.—1794, v. g., 7; do., g., 3.60; '96, 15 stars, v. g., 66; do., 16 stars, v. g., 65.50; '97, fair, 35.50 (cost 50); 1801, 4; '02, 5.20; '05, 3.30; '15, uncir., 9.25; '36, milled edge, f., 3.20; '40, large letters, 2.80; '52, uncir., 4.70; '56, pr., 3.30; '57, pr., 2.25. *Quarter Dollars*.—1796, f., 10.75; 1807, v. f., 4.25; '22, f., 3; '23 over '22, fair, 33.50 (cost 50); '24 over '22, 4; '27, pr., 210 (cost 135); '53 over '52, 8.25. *Twenty Cents*.—1875, 1; '77, 2.80; '78, 2.10; do., 2.05. *Dimes*.—1796, f., 6.25; '97, 13 stars, f., 24.25 (cost 30); '98 over '97, g., 4.26; '98, f., 2.80; 1800, g., 4.70; '01, v. g., 3.60; '02, 3.10; '03, v. g., 3.60; '04, v. g., 27 (cost 23); '14, large date, g., 2.60; '22, v. g., 2.70; '23, v. f., 3.25; '24, f., 2.75; '28, v. f., 3.75; '48, v. f., 4. *Half Dimes*.—1794, f., 7.75; '96, g., 3.90; '97, g., 2.50; do., v. g., 2.25. 1802, g., 67.50 (cost 70); '05, v. fair, 8; '46, f., 2.80; rare, 2.80; '56, pr., 2.25. *Three Cents*.—1863 and '64 (2), pr., 1.25; '65, '66 (2), pr., 1. *Nickel Cent*, 1856, pr., 3.20. *Cents*.—1793, v. g., 10.50; do., g., 6; do., wreath, f., 12.50; do., 7.20; do., 5.10; do., Liberty cap, g., 25.50 (cost 15); '94, v. f., 6.25; do., v. f., 8.75 (cost 7.25); do. f. 5.50 (cost 4.50); '96, uncir., 18.75; '99, g., 20; 1802, g., 5.50; '03, v. f., 7; '04, f., 28; do., g., 7.25; '06, v. g., 4.15; '07, 5.25; '09, f., 8.90; do., fair, 3; '11, f., 4.75; do., 2.80; '14, f., 2.25; '21, v. f., 15.50; '23, 2.25; '24, f., 9; '27, v. f., 3.85; '28, f., 4; do., f., 7.35 (cost 5); '29, f., 3.10; '56, pr., 2.50; '57, small date, pr., 5.10. *Half Cents*.—1793, g., 2.75; '94, v. f., 4.20; '95, v. f., 8.25; do., v. f., 12; '96, v. fair, 17; '97, large date, v. f., 7.25 (cost 4.75); 1831, pr., 14 (cost 12); '36, pr., 12.50; '40, original, pr., 8.25; '41, do., 8.75; do., 8.50; '42, pr., restrike, 17; '43, do., 10; '44, do., 13.50; '46, do., 11.25; '47, do., 13; '48, do., 10.50; '52, do., 7; '56, pr., 2.10; '57, pr., 3.60. *Half Dollar*, N. O. Mint, 1852, v. f., 3.70; *Dime*, do., without stars, 7; *Half Dime*, do., 3.20; *Quarter Dollar*, '55, do., 5.10. A large number of Pattern pieces, Colonials, etc., etc., brought good prices. The sale realized \$2,738.

Priced Catalogues can be obtained of Lyman H. Low, 853 Broadway, New York, at fifty cents each.

## FROSSARD'S SALES.

MR. ED. FROSSARD sold Part II, Russian Collection, with Addenda of fine American coins on Tuesday and Wednesday, November 23 and 24 last. Although many of the Russian and Ancient Coins offered were to a certain extent duplicates of those offered in Part I, the prices were much more satisfactory, reaching average high figures in many instances. The set of pattern and proof copper coins of Russia sold for \$75; the series of portrait medals of Polish kings, 22; the series of bronze medals of Russian rulers from Rurik, A. D. 862 to Nicholas I, 1825, complete, 53.55; a coronation medal of Nicholas I, struck in pure aluminum, weight 3½ oz., 28.50; the set of platina coinage, 12, 6 and 3 roubles, 30.25; a mortuary medal of Cornelius and John De Witt, with legend NOBILE PAR FRATRUM, 9.50. Among the Greek coins, the gold stater of Athens sold at 115; the double stater of Alexander III, 55; a solidus of Constantius I, 12.50; a 10 ducat piece with bust of William of Orange, the Silent, proof condition, 36; and a quadruple ducat of Ferdinand and Isabella, 22.85. Among the American coins, the California \$50 gold circular slug, 1855, sold for 62; a fine dollar of 1858, '37; and a cracked die Liberty cap cent of 1793, 21. The total proceeds of sale reached very nearly \$3,000.

Mr. Frossard is now engaged in cataloguing Part III and last of this collection, formed chiefly of fine and rare coins of Ancient Greece. The sale is to take place about the end of February. He has the catalogue of the Sterling collection nearly ready, and Dr. Woodward has one in press and another in preparation.

Two very large and choice collections of an archaeological character have lately been sold, one by Mr. Frossard, the other by Dr. Woodward. Notices of these, which we have prepared, and other sales, must be postponed till our next.

## NOTES AND QUERIES.

## ALCHEMISTS' MEDALS.

IN connection with Prof. Bolton's list of Alchemists' Medals, on a previous page, we may mention one of 1690, catalogued by Zschiesche & Koder, Leipzig, in their 28th list (May, 1866, No. 1494) which appears to have been struck by Friedrich I of Saxe Coburg Gotha, b. 1646, d. Aug. 12, 1691; it bears stars, a globe, etc., and in the background the castle of Friedenstein. One of these medals, which are very rare (RR) was in the Dassdorf Sale in 1875 (No. 2376.) The one under notice is of silver, a very good impression, weight 84 grammes, and the catalogue price is \$22.50.

In Vol. XIII, p. 11, of the *Journal*, is a description of one of the medals mentioned by Dr. Bolton, struck by Ferdinand III, together with some numismatic references.

## SILVER CHAIN DOLLAR, 1776.

IN an English Sale Catalogue (Dec. 17) we note the following: "Chain Dollar, *silver*. *Obv.* Sundial, Continental Currency, 1776, *rev.* Chain, American Congress, *rare and very fine.*" Have any of our collectors this coin in SILVER?

## OBITUARY.

THE Italian journals record the death of Professor Bernardino Brondelli. He was born at Verona, in 1804, and became widely known for his antiquarian, philosophical, and archaeological lore. In 1849 he was named Director of the Cabinet of Medals at Milan, and in 1860 became Professor of Archaeology and Numismatics at the Academy Royal. He was the author of several works on the languages of Europe (1841), on the Gallo-Italian dialects, on the Aztec language, as well as of several studies on particular forms of the Italian language, and of monographs on numismatic subjects.

MR. BENJAMIN F. NOURSE, whose decease took place a few days ago, was for some time a Resident member of the Boston Numismatist Society, but resigned several years ago. Although his active connection with the Society had ceased, he retained his interest in coins and collecting till his death, which was quite unexpected.

## EDITORIAL.

MR. W. BEACH, M. P., the Provincial Grand Master of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, on the 9th of September, opened an exhibition of Masonic antiquities at Shanklin. The exhibition, which consisted of upwards of 1,400 jewels, medals, rare and curious documents, books, and other things, has been promoted by Mr. Alfred Greenham, the Master of the Cline Lodge, No. 1844, in aid of the Masonic Building Fund. Among the exhibits were a large number of Masonic jewels and medals.

THE method proposed by Dr. Storer for mounting and preserving cabinet specimens of coins and medals, as explained in his article on a preceding page has much to commend it—not the least of which is the convenience of having, side by side with the piece itself, comments, references, and the brief summary of its history, etc., which, as he suggests, may be written on the card. He has favored the *Journal* with a specimen of a coin mounted in accordance with his method, which demonstrates its advantages, and which may be seen at the Editors' office by any one interested.

WE regret to be obliged to defer our mention of the Proceedings of some of the Numismatic Societies, copy of which reached us too late to be available for this number.